

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 AID-20 L-03 H-03

OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11 /101 W
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R 181500Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1395
INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT BR

SUBJ: ELECTION SPEECH OF BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT
ERNESTO GEISEL

REF: BRASILIA 358

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT-ELECT ADDRESSED NATION OVER MAJOR
RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORKS EVENING JANUARY 16. AS
EXPECTED, SPEECH BROKE NO NEW SUBSTANTIVE GROUND, BUT
POLITICIANS WERE SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED BY LACK OF
REFERENCE TO POLITICAL MATTERS AND BY RELATIVELY HARSH
TONE OF SPEECH.

1. GEISEL OPENED SPEECH--IN AN OBVIOUS REFLECTION OF
CONCERN OVER "LEGITIMACY" WHICH CHARACTERISTIC OF REGIME--
WITH REFERENCE TO HIS ELECTION BY THE "LEGITIMATE PROCESS
OF INDIRECT ELECTION--WHICH WAS INSTITUTED BY THE FEDERAL
CONSTITUTION, IN ITS DEEP WISDOM...." HE PROMISED NOT
BE SWAYED IN HIS DUTIES BY ANY PERSONAL MOTIVES, AND TO
DEDICATE HIS FULL ENERGY TO CARRYING OUT HIS MANDATE OF
PURSUING THE GOALS OF THE 1964 REVOLUTION. STATING THAT,
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AS LEADER OF ALL THE PEOPLE, HE CANNOT FAVOR SPECIAL IN-

TEREST GROUPS, HE EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT "ONE OF THE MAJOR VIRTUES OF A LEADER OF GOVERNMENT IS KNOWING HOW TO SAY 'NO' TO PROPOSITIONS WHICH APPEAR TO BE UNTIMELY OR WHICH, AFTER JUST ANALYSIS, APPEAR TO BE ILLEGITIMATE." HOWEVER, HE PROMISED TO REMAIN OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

2. GEISEL ASKED FOR CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE NOT ONLY IN HIMSELF, BUT ALSO IN THE GROUP OF PERSONS HE WILL CHOOSE TO ASSIST HIM IN CARRYING FORWARD THE WORK OF THE PAST TEN YEARS. PAYING TRIBUTE TO HIS PREDECESSORS, HE THANKED THEM FOR LAYING "A SOLID AND AMPLE FOUNDATION" WHICH PERMITTED A REALISTIC VISION "OF GREATNESS, OF PEACE AND OF SOCIAL JUSTICE...IN THE NOT DISTANT FUTURE." HE THEN ADDRESSED THE SEVERAL CRISES OF INTERNATIONAL SCALE FACING BRAZIL, WARNING LISTENERS THAT WORLD IS FACING "A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD IN HUMAN HISTORY." HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO ENERGY CRISIS AND RISING PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS, TO POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY ON WORLD SCENE, AND TO "WAVE OF UNDISCIPLINED VIOLENCE" WHICH ATTACKING BASES OF SOCIETY IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. "BRAZIL, IT IS EVIDENT, CANNOT HIDE FROM THE HARMFUL AND MANIFOLD REPERCUSSIONS OF THESE CRITICAL EVENTS" GIVEN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE "INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT AND INTERLACED CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE." HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BRAZIL WOULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES AND PROMISED TO APPLY A "PRAGMATIC EVALUATION OF THE MOST JUSTIFIABLE PRIORITIES OF ACTION..." AND TO CONDUCT HIS OFFICE IN "AN AUSTERE MANNER, INIMICAL TO OSTENTATION AND IRRESPONSIBLE WASTE."

3. GEISEL STATED THAT, COUNTING ON THE "VIGILANT PARTICIPATION OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF BRAZILIANS" HE DID NOT FEAR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DAMAGED BY THE "SMALL NUMBER OF THE FAITHLESS, THE APATHETIC, THE DEFEATISTS, THE SUBVERSIVES OR THE CORRUPT." NEVERTHELESS, HE PROMISED "PROMPT AND EXEMPLARY TREATMENT OF ANY SUBVERSIVE INCONSTANCY, AND ANY ACT OF CORRUPTION WHICH COMES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT, THUS GUARDING, I BELIEVE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ATMOSPHERE OF TRANQUILITY, OF SOCIAL STABILITY AND OF PUBLIC ORDER WHICH IS INDISPENSIBLE TO THE UPWARD COURSE OF THE COUNTRY, AND WHICH FALLS TO THE AUTHORITIES TO ASSURE AS ONE OF THEIR MOST UNAVOIDABLE, IF PAINFUL, DUTIES." IN CLOSING, GEISEL ASKED FOR "UNDERSTANDING OF ALL GOOD BRAZILIANS," WHO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE THAT "ORDER AND STABILITY REPRESENT AS THE ESSENTIAL GUARANTEE OF THE PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING OF ALL THE PEOPLE." HE HOPED

IN TURN TO GUARANTEE THAT NECESSARY ORDER AND STABILITY
IN LEADING BRAZIL TO ITS DESTINY OF "A GREAT NATION,
COHESIVE AND PROSPEROUS, GENEROUS AND JUST."

4. PREDICTABLY, "ATMOSPHERE OF TRANQUILITY"
IN WHICH PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION WAS CARRIED OUT RECEIVED
PRAISE FROM MOST EDITORIAL SOURCES, AS DID SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT-ELECT. JORNAL DO BRASIL, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIED
EDITORIAL WHICH DESCRIBED ELECTION AS "SIGNIFICANT VOTE
WHICH SANCTIONS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY" OF PRESIDENT-
ELECT. EDITORIAL SEES GEISEL'S WARNING ABOUT SUBVERSION
AND CORRUPTION AS "SIGNAL THAT, IN A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR
THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD, IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT TO ALTER
THE NORMAL EVOLUTION OF THINGS ON THE BASIS OF INOPPORTUNE
POLITICAL EXPECTATIONS...." EDITORIAL ENDS ON HORTATORY
NOTE, STATING THAT LARGE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY IN CONGRESS
AND PEACEFUL SUCCESSION SHOULD RESULT IN "...MORE
FREQUENT NORMALITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, WITH
RESTRAINT IN USE OF CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS BY THE EXECUTIVE
AND EFFICIENT COOPERATION BY THE LEGISLATURE IN DETERMINING
THE FINAL FORM OF LAWS.

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RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 EB-11 AID-20 L-03

H-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /101 W

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5. ESTADO DO SAO PAULO, WHOSE ELECTION COVERAGE WAS HEAVILY

CENSORED, FEATURED MORE TRENCHANT COMMENTARY, DESCRIBING ELECTION AS "ONLY A RITUAL, WITHOUT EMOTION." COMMENTING ON SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG POLITICANS OVER GEISEL SPEECH (AS NOTED REFTEL), ARTICLE BY ESTADO BRASILIA CORRESPONDENT ATTRIBUTED THIS TO "THE HARSHNESS OF THE TERMS" USED IN SPEECH. ARTICLE CALLS ATTENTION TO "THE DRY AND SOMEWHAT SOMBER TONE" USED BY GEISEL IN DELIVERING HIS ADDRESS AND CONTRASTS THIS WITH THE TONE OF HIS ARENA PARTY CONVENTION SPEECH, BLAMING THE CHANGE ON THE INTERVENING WORLD ENERGY CRISIS. EXAMINING SPEECH FOR ITS POLITICAL CONTENT, ARTICLE NOTES SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN GEISEL SPEECH AND THAT DELIVERED UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES BY PRESIDENT MEDICI IN 1969; "THAT ONE WAS POLITICALLY RICH, WHILE GENERAL GEISEL'S IS EXTREMELY POOR IN THIS FIELD. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT...PROMISED NOTHING. IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE ARENA CONVENTION, HE SAID THAT THE REGIME WAS SUSCEPTIBLE OF IMPROVEMENT--IMPLICITLY, IN THE DIRECTION OF INCREASED DEMOCRACY--BUT YESTERDAY HE PREFERRED TO LIMIT HIS REMARKS TO AN AFFIRMATION THAT THERE WILL BE PROMPT AND EXEMPLARY TREATMENT... OF SUBVERSION AND CORRUPTION." ARTICLE NOTES THAT PRESIDENT MEDICI AWAKENED EXPECTATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR POLITICAL REFORMS WHICH WERE NEVER REALIZED, AND ENDS WITH HOPE THAT GENERAL GEISEL, ALTHOUGH PROMISING NOTHING, "WILL DELIVER FULL DEMOCRACY TO THE COUNTRY."

6. DISCOMFITURE AMONG POLITICANS RESULTING FROM GEISEL SPEECH IS EXACERBATED BY GENERAL AIR OF SECRECY SURROUNDING GEISEL'S ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS. ACCORDING TO SOURCES WITHIN CONGRESS, EVEN GEISEL'S CLOSEST ADVISORS ARE UNAWARE OF HIS PLANS. ONE CURRENT ANECDOTE HAS CLOSE ADVISOR COMPLAINING TO GEISEL THAT SECRECY CAUSING PUBLIC GUESSING GAME IN WHICH 300 NAMES ARE MENTIONED AS PROSPECTIVE CABINET MINISTERS, DRAWING RETORT, "WHEN I AM THROUGH THERE WILL BE 316 NAMES". ACCORDING TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SPEECH CONFIRMED THEIR FEARS THAT GEISEL'S MUCH-LAUDED INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICANS WOULD NOT LEAD TO FULFILLMENT OF HOPES FOR "POLITICAL OPENING" WHICH THEY HAD AROUSED.

7. RESPECTED COLUMNIST CARLOS CASTELLO BRANCO SUPPORTS THIS CONCLUSION IN HIS JORNAL DO BRASIL COLUMN, BUT PUTS FORTH THESIS THAT GEISEL NOT PERSONALLY TO BLAME. WRITES CASTELLO, "GENERAL GEISEL INTENDED TO GIVE INCREASING PARTICIPATION TO THE POLITICANS IN THE DECISIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND SUMMON A FEW OF THEM FOR IMPORTANT DUTIES. HE WAS THINKING OF THE POLITICANS OF 1964, THOSE WHO FREQUENTED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TO CONVERSE AND DEBATE WITH PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO. IT APPEARS THAT THE FUTURE PRESIDENT WAS SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED. THE POLITICIANS

WHO CAME TO HIM ARE NOT THE SAME PEOPLE, OR, WHEN THEY ARE,
NO LONGER REMEMBER WHAT THEY WERE....THE POLITICIANS
USED TO HAVE POSITIONS TO DEFEND AND WERE AT TIMES SO
INTRANSIGENT THAT THE REVOLUTION FELT ITSELF CHALLENGED
BY THEM; THEY WERE DEMANDING AND EXACTING, NOT IN PERSONAL
MATTERS, BUT ON POINTS OF DOCTRINE. TODAY...THE
LANGUAGE HAS CHANGED. POLITICS HAS CEASED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE.
NO ONE DEMANDS. THOSE WHO COULD HAVE DONE SO
HAVE GROWN HOARSE OVER THE LONG SILENCE OF FIVE YEARS.
ALL ONE HEARS IS APPLAUSE, PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF THE
REVOLUTION AND OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO CONSOLIDATE THE
PRINCIPLES OF THE REVOLUTION. ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS
CONSECRATE AS DEFINITIVE THE SYSTEM OF INDIRECT PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS, AND UNIVERSALIZE IT, IF POSSIBLE. ALL THEY WANT
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IS TO ADOPT AI-5 AS AN IRREMOVABLE INSTRUMENT OF SECURITY
....GENERAL GEISEL CAN LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST TEN
YEARS WITH PRIDE...AT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION.
BUT NOT ALL GIVES RISE TO JUBILATION. THIS
DEBASEMENT OF POLITICAL LIFE, WHICH NEVER CEASES TO IMPRESS
HIM AND TO AFFECT HIS PLANS, IS THE FAULT OF THE
REVOLUTION. BRAZIL HAS GROWN BUT ITS POLITICIANS HAVE
SHRUNKEN. THE CAUSE OF THIS IS EVIDENT," HE CONCLUDES.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT BY SEPTTEL.
TUCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CORRUPTION, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, LAW, ELECTIONS, SPEECHES, PRESIDENT ELECT, MANDATES (LEAGUE OF NATIONS), POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL00421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740133/aaaabeor.tel
Line Count: 254
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRASILIA 358
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION SPEECH OF BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT ERNESTO GEISEL
TAGS: PINT, BR, (GEISEL, ERNESTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005